



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Monday, February 13, 2006**

**U.S. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE GUTIERREZ STATEMENT  
ON THE NATIONAL OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE ACT**

"I am convinced that the United States must explore the potential of offshore aquaculture to help meet the growing demand for seafood in this country and to create jobs and economic opportunity for coastal communities. To support that, we are making the National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2005 a priority for this department and this country. We need to create this opportunity now."

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